

## **VIPS Mission Statement**

Falmouth Volunteers in Public Schools enriches the lives of students by promoting volunteerism, creating impactful programs and forging community partnerships.

## **Introduction**

Since 1982, Falmouth VIPs has promoted volunteerism in the schools through constructive and mutually beneficial partnerships within the Falmouth community. In more recent years, VIPs has expanded its role in developing programs that help students remain connected to their education and the school community while also preparing them to be productive citizens upon graduation. In turn, community members, organizations and businesses are informed about and involved in their public schools while enriching students' lives in meaningful ways.

This strategic plan serves as a blueprint for the growth and evaluation of Falmouth VIPs for the next five years from 2018 through 2023. It is designed to present the VIPs mission and strategic objectives developed by the Board of Advisors in collaboration with the VIPs Director. Each strategic objective is aimed at fulfilling the VIPs mission and creating a model program that can be adopted by other school districts. This is an evolving document and will be adjusted through adequate review and analysis on a yearly basis.

## **I. Volunteer Recruitment, Training & Recognition**

Falmouth VIPs plays an active and critical role in facilitating volunteerism in the Falmouth schools. Every volunteer in our schools on any given day is a part of the VIPs organization. With a centralized database of over 1,000 volunteers, VIPs efficiently recruits volunteers based on requests and needs of the schools and staff. VIPs recognizes the importance of a culturally diverse volunteer 'workforce' and endeavors to recruit volunteers that reflect our student population.

Falmouth VIPs encourages and promotes student volunteerism in school and community activities. Once students reach high school, VIPs works with students to find meaningful volunteer opportunities and experiences, and helps them log their volunteer hours to prepare them for internships, college, jobs, and scholarships. We celebrate student volunteers through our Student Volunteer of the Month program and scholarships awarded each year to students who have shared their time with school and community causes.

Falmouth VIPs has been fortunate and proud to receive recognition at the local, state and national levels. We strongly believe in acknowledging our volunteers for their dedication and contribution. Each year, we hold a Volunteer Recognition Dinner to celebrate the many ways our volunteers and community partners enrich the lives of students in the Falmouth Public Schools. At this event, awards are presented to the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for each of our seven schools.

## **II. Program Development & Support**

Falmouth VIPs develops and supports effective programs at every school and grade level. Our goal is to identify and serve students' social, emotional, and academic needs while building on concepts, topics, and ideas throughout a student's experience in the Falmouth Public Schools. To accomplish this, we consistently review new and existing programs for long-term sustainability, relevance, and adherence to the VIPs mission.

As part of its sustainability plan, VIPs uses paid and volunteer Program Leaders who guide the growth and development of our programs in the following focus areas:

### **Mentoring**

- School Based Mentoring (Grades K – 6)
- Peer Mentoring (Grades 7 – 12)
- College Mentoring (Grades 11 & 12)

### **Wellness**

- Girls Circle (Grades 4 – 8)
- Work It Out (Grades 5 & 6)

### **Financial Literacy**

- School Savings Program (Grades K – 6)
- Junior Achievement (Grades 3 & 4)
- Choices (Grades 7 & 8)
- Earn, Save, Grow Workshops (Grades 9 – 12)

### **Academic Support**

- Cross-Age Science Teaching (Grades 3 & 8)
- Academically Accelerated Program (pilot at Mullen Hall elementary K – 4)

## **III. Partnership Development & Support**

Falmouth VIPS continually seeks to identify, maintain and recognize community partners that help fulfill our mission. Community partners include individuals, organizations and businesses that support VIPS through program participation and/or financial support. Additionally, as a well-recognized, professional organization in the community, VIPS is a valuable conduit for organizations seeking to provide services and resources to the schools, staff, and students.

VIPS actively facilitates partnerships that link the schools and the community in a variety of ways:

- Career & Community Service Fair (Grades 6 – 8)
- MedStart (Grades 11 & 12)
- Career Fair (Grade 11)
- Credit For Life Fair (Grade 12)

## **IV. Financial & Resource Development**

Financial planning and resource development will guide the long-term sustainability of the organization, help fulfill the VIPS mission, and achieve the strategic objectives detailed in this document. Falmouth Public Schools provides a majority of funding through an allocation in their annual budget. Additional support is currently provided as follows:

- Grants
- Donations
- Annual Fundraising Events (Elementary Track Meet and Feasts of Falmouth)
- In-Kind Donations

The Board of Advisors and VIPS staff will continue to explore additional funding opportunities, such as an endowment fund and multi-year funding commitments, that can help meet the long-term operating needs and sustainability of the organization.